

## ❧ Story of a Famous Indian. ❧



"**T**HE Sauganash" was his Indian title. He was better known to red and white men alike as "Captain Billy Caldwell." He was half Pottawatomie, half white. His immediate nationality was even more mixed than his ancestry. On his mother's side he came of the bluest Pottawatomie Indian stock. His father was an Irish officer. He was brought up a Frenchman, received a captaincy from the British government, and was a civic official of the United States. First and last, however, by his own choice he remained an Indian chief.

Caldwell was born in 1780 in Canada. As a child he fell under the wise, kindly influence of the Detroit Jesuits. From them he received an excellent education and became master of both the French and English languages in addition to his knowledge of many native Indian dialects. When only a lad he met the great Tecumseh and instantly enrolled himself as that Shawnee spellbinder's admirer and disciple. The two were dear friends until Tecumseh's death. But the Shawnees could never imbue Caldwell with his bitter hatred against the white men. Although Caldwell with his strong feelings was Indian, he could never wholly forget that he was half English. He fought for the British against the United States in the war of 1812. Rising rapidly in rank he became captain in Great Britain's "Indian department." Though he lived in the United States after the war was over, he never renounced his allegiance to the British crown. He held office under our government, but was proudest of his rank of captain in England's army. Apart from this captaincy, he was also a chief of the Ottawas and the Pottawatomies.

Caldwell is said by some historians to have been the fiercest of the Indian assailants at the "Chicago Massacre" in 1812. Others say he refused to take part in the conflict.